

News From U.S. Senator

North Dakota

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SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY FROM FARGO PROFESSOR ABOUT KEY DEFENSE RESEARCH AT NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITIES

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — Fargo professor and researcher Dr. Philip Boudjouk testified Wednesday before the Senate Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations in Washington, D.C. and called for increased funding for a research program important to national defense readiness and capabilities. U. S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), a member of the subcommittee, supported Boudjouk's call for funding and urged his colleagues to join him in supporting the program which has resulted in important anti-corrosion research at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo. The federal research program is called the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

Dr. Boudjouk, Professor of Chemistry and Vice President for Research at NDSU, oversees corrosion and coating research at NDSU where researchers are working on an innovative project to extend the life and usefulness of U.S. military aircraft, a project supported by EPSCoR. Saying the program is a wise investment of public resources, Dr. Boudjouk,, provided testimony about the importance of EPSCoR research projects, which covers a wide spectrum important to national defense and is coordinated through partnerships with federal, state and local officials and researchers.

Dorgan, who toured the NDSU Corrosion and Coatings Research Center earlier this year, said that researchers at NDSU in Fargo and the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks are involved in EPSCoR and have received \$70 million in grants since 1986 for infrastructure and research from the Department of Defense and other federal agencies through EPSCoR.

"This is a program that gives our defense department access to many talented researchers at universities and non-profit organizations in North Dakota and throughout the nation," Dorgan said. "Without this important research, the U.S. could lose valuable, cutting-edge technologies that are so important to our national defense."

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